

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A guidewire protection system for use in vascular procedures includes a sheathless protective filter proximate a distal end of a tubular guidewire assembly. In one embodiment, a control cable disposed within the guidewire is attached to a distal end of the filter while the
5 guidewire is attached to a proximal end of the filter. Selective displacement of the control cable radially expands the filter to create a tube shaped filter having a convex, primary filter surface that is positionable downstream from a site of a vascular procedure. In this embodiment, the filter also presents a concave, secondary filter surface. Preferably, the sheathless protective filter is constructed of a braided wire mesh over which polymer fibers are woven to create a softer
10 filter surface.